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of a dream today, so almost incredible in its extent and character, will look small in comparison with the results of another year. So it is not as the sum or summary

of a work finished or done, that the War Service Committee brings its report to you this morning, but solely and purely as a progress report.

### SENDING BOOKS "OVER THERE"\*

BY W. H. BRETT, *Librarian, Cleveland Public Library*

The Newport News dispatch station was established early in March in a business block, removing to its own building in April. Newport News is one of the two large embarkation ports. The station was planned to supply the camps of the army and navy—some thirty in number—in the tidewater district, on both sides of Hampton Roads. The whole district includes many places having interesting associations with early Virginia history, the Revolution and the Civil War. The principal work of the station, however, is sending books overseas. The building is located conveniently to the piers and the embarkation headquarters and is similar to the camp library buildings in its construction.

The first librarian who did much to organize the work was Miss Margaret Mann, head cataloger of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She was succeeded in April by Miss Sophie K. Hiss, catalog librarian of the Cleveland Public Library. The staff includes three former members of the Cleveland library staff, one from St. Louis and one from Davenport.

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\*Abstract of address, given more fully in the August *Library Journal*.

[NOTE: As the proofs of these papers and addresses of the Saratoga Springs Conference are passing through the press, the sad word is received of the sudden death, on August 24, of Mr. W. H. Brett.]

While the work has been under the general charge of the dispatch agent from the beginning, he has only been able to give a share of his time to it and most of the credit for the work that has been accomplished is due to the librarians and the staff.

The work of placing books in the camps is of great interest, as it brings more direct contact with the men in the service and has a great variety, the work being done through the Y. M. C. A. agencies, the Red Cross, the hospitals and the army and navy chaplains. Books are also issued directly to the men who visit the station. The principal work, however, is sending books overseas, which is done in two ways. The books are packed in boxes a little over 30 by 20 inches and about 8 inches in depth with one shelf and a solid cover which is screwed on and removable. The boxes form a convenient bookcase. They are largely placed on the decks in charge of the Y. M. C. A. secretaries who go overseas and are used by the men going over and afterward turned over to the agencies overseas, thus adding to the supply. Other books in still larger numbers, packed either in the boxes already described or in small packing cases, are placed in cargo and shipped to France, an allowance of twenty tons being made to this shipping station.